

## **SPEAKER'S BIO**

### **PAUL B. DEWOLFE**

Mr. DeWolfe has practiced in the area of criminal defense for 35 years, 25 years as a public defender in the State of Maryland. In 2009, Mr. DeWolfe was appointed Public Defender of Maryland, the fourth attorney to hold this position in the agency's 40 year history. In this capacity he leads an office of 570 attorneys and 344 support staff. He first joined the Montgomery County office in 1980 as an Assistant Public Defender before leaving the office for private practice in 1989. He returned to the office in a leadership role in the year 2000 serving as District Public Defender for Montgomery County, Maryland. During his career Mr. DeWolfe has tried criminal jury trials in cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder in both state and federal court.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 2005, Mr. DeWolfe was formerly on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a former President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association and a former President of the Bar Association of Montgomery County Maryland. Currently he is Past Chair of the Criminal Law Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. DeWolfe is a 2008 recipient of the Joseph P. Curran Award for Distinguished Public Interest Lawyers from the Maryland State Bar Association.

### **JUSTIN T. COOK**

A Jackson-native, Justin has been at the Office of State Public Defender since January of 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Justin attended law school at the University of Mississippi. He lives in Jackson with his wife, Ginger, his daughter, Eloise, his son Oliver and their two dogs, Stella and Banjo.

### **MARSHAL L. FISHER**

Marshall L. Fisher is the 15th commissioner since the Mississippi Department of Corrections was established in 1976. Gov. Phil Bryant appointed him Jan. 1, 2015.

Fisher has years of experience in overseeing complex public safety issues at the state and federal level. At the time of his appointment, he was state director for the Mississippi Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, serving as a liaison for drug task forces and area law enforcement agencies, among other duties.

Fisher accepted the commissioner post after spending nearly 10 years as the state's top narcotics enforcer. He was executive director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics from 2005-2014, acting as the senior advisor to the Governor and the Mississippi Legislature on drug policy matters. During his leadership, Mississippi passed one of the toughest anti-methamphetamine laws in the country making pseudoephedrine prescription only. The state also became a model for the eradication of meth on the enforcement front, recording its largest methamphetamine bust in 2009.

Fisher led MBN after retiring from the Drug Enforcement Administration, where he was assigned as Agent in Charge of Mississippi DEA operations. During a DEA career that spanned two decades, he was assigned to field offices in Texas, Kansas, Kentucky and DEA Headquarters in Washington,

D.C., where he served as section chief in the Office of Domestic Operations to Europe, Asia, Africa and Canada. A reputed coalition builder accustomed to elaborate, high-risk domestic and international investigations, Fisher has coordinated joint operations involving DEA, MBN, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, and numerous other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

He received the National Impact Award in 2010 for his anti-methamphetamine efforts. He also is the 2011 recipient of the Jim Ingram Lifetime Achievement Award. During his DEA career, he was recognized several times for outstanding, excellent performance.

Fisher started his law enforcement career as a police officer in Texas and as a parole agent in Louisiana, his native state.

He is a U.S. Navy veteran and a graduate of the University of Memphis. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.

He and his wife, Thelma, have two sons, Grady and Shane, both of whom work in federal law enforcement.

### **DAVID SCOTT**

Mr. Scott grew up in Hattiesburg where he graduated from high school. After completing a short tour of duty in the Army as a military police officer, he attended and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Criminal Justice. He was employed by the Attorney General's Office as an investigator with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. After four years as an investigator, he left the Attorney General's Office to attend law school at Mississippi College School of Law and graduated in 1995 with honors.

He returned to the Attorney General's Office as a Special Assistant Attorney General and was assigned to the Opinions Division where he wrote opinions on issues concerning law enforcement, justice and municipal courts, prosecutors, sheriffs, constables and criminal matters.

In 2004 he was assigned to the Department of Corrections. As legal counsel for MDOC, his duties include reviewing and approving agency policy and procedures, handling Employee Appeals Board cases, reviewing agency contracts, reviewing federal court orders for the housing of state inmates in county jails, and various other legal projects assigned by the Commissioner.

### **G PAUL MARX**

G. Paul Marx has been engaged in the Public Defender Profession since immediately after his admission to the bar in 1980, when he opened his first client file, an appointed case in Lafayette, Louisiana. During his administration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defender Office from 1984 - through 2001, his Team focused approach resulted in a strive of Life and lesser verdicts in Capital cases in a district once noted for having the 4<sup>th</sup> highest death row population in Louisiana. After leaving the contract defender post in 2001, Paul became the Executive Director of the Louisiana Public Defenders Association, through which he and other public defenders helped pass the biggest reform in Louisiana Criminal Justice in 2007. That was the act that created a state board and lead to standards and a full time component of public defenders for the first time. Paul left his private practice (which included a contract for Criminal appellate work on behalf of indigents) and became

the chief, known as District Defender in 2010. He has taken that distressed district closer to best practices and is a partner office of Gideon's Promise. The renewal of that teamwork has resulted in dozens of capital indictments being disposed of with Life or leaser verdicts. Paul teaches as an Adjunct Criminal Justice Instructor at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and has tried nearly a dozen penalty phase hearings, and worked as part of the team on scores of others, including a 2013 case that ended in a life plea. Paul has been a big advocate of training and for recognition of the Public Defenders as a true professional Specialty within the greater bar of the United States.

#### **ANDRE' de GRUY**

André de Gruy is the director of the Capital Defense Division of the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. He founded the division as an independent state agency in July 2001. He previously worked as an intern, staff attorney and director of the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center Inc. and spent 5 ½ years as an assistant public defender in Hinds County. He is a 1990 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law. André has served on the Mississippi Public Defender Association Board of Directors for over 15 years including as President and chair of both the Training and Public Policy Committees. He is a "Life" member of MPDA. André has also served on the Mississippi Public Defender Taskforce and currently serves as a lawyer/advisor to the Mississippi Psychology Association's Forensics Working Group and serves on Catholic Charities' Poverty in Mississippi Taskforce. He is married to Judge Elizabeth de Gruy and they have four children.

#### **JAKE HOWARD**

Jake Howard splits his time between the Law Office of McDuff & Byrd, where he has been an associate since 2012, and the MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Mississippi, where he has been Of Counsel since January of 2015. Jake has litigated civil rights and criminal cases at the trial, appellate, and post-conviction stages in state and federal court. Since 2012, he has been the co-coordinator of an effort to ensure that all juvenile offenders serving life sentences in Mississippi's prisons receive an opportunity for release on parole pursuant to the United States Supreme Court's decisions in *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama*.

Prior to moving to Mississippi, Jake was an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow in the Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center and a law clerk for the Honorable Myron H. Thompson in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

Jake earned a masters of laws degree in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center and graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School. He also received a master's in teaching from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan.

#### **MACKEY WRIGHT**

Mackey Wright currently serves as the Staff Investigator for the Federal Public Defender for the Pensacola, FL Office of the Northern District of Florida. Mackey was sworn into this position on June 28, 2014. Prior to becoming the Staff Investigator for the Federal Defender Office Mackey worked for the Mississippi Office of the State Public Defender as Investigator/Mitigation Specialist.

Mackey worked for the MS OSPD for nearly five years. Mackey received his Masters in Social Work from Jackson State University in 2010 and received a second Masters in Public Administration from Belhaven University in 2012. Mackey is a proud Veteran of the United States Army serving during Operation Desert Storm.

### **REGINA CURRY**

Regina W. Curry is a mitigation investigator for the Capital Defense Division of the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. She began her career with Capital Defense in 2006 as a Social Work Intern from Jackson State University. She was the first social worker hired as a mitigation specialist in Mississippi. Master of Social Work Students from Jackson State University and The University of Southern Mississippi completed internships under her supervision. Regina has testified as an expert witness in capital cases. Her mitigation experience includes over 35 cases which resulted in mental retardation rulings, acquittals, hung juries, manslaughter, life without parole, life with parole, and death verdicts. She is currently mitigating a *Miller* case which is expected to be the first of many to go to trial. Regina has presented at national and state conferences on capital mitigation issues.

Regina arrived at Capital Defense with over 25 years of experience in administration at Louisiana State Hospitals as an Accountant and Admissions Director, Central Texas College as an Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Metro Counseling Substance Abuse Center Fiscal Director, and Durant Electric Company Human Resource Director. She also worked as an adjunct professor at Tougaloo College in the Sociology Department. She earned a BS in Business from Northwestern State University, Master of Administration from Central Michigan University, and Master of Social Work from Jackson State University. She is currently studying to sit for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) examination.

### **LELA HUBBARD**

Lela Hubbard, LMSW, joined the OSPD Capital Defense Division staff in December 2008 as a Mitigation Investigator. Ms. Hubbard received her master's degree from Jackson State University School of Social Work in 1998. She has worked professionally as a social worker in both Behavioral Health and Family Services. In 2008 she received the Outstanding Senior Paralegal Award.

Lela is a nationally certified Defense Initiated Victim Outreach (DIVO) specialist and received her certification under the training of Kelly Braham. Lela has a knack for understanding victim pain and has been an inspiration in resolving not only her cases but helping out other mitigation investigators in the office by working with victims' families and having them to agree not to seek the death penalty. Lela is constantly attending workshops and different trainings to keep abreast of new mitigation ideas. Since her arrival in the office, she has only been involved in two trials with the rest of her cases either pleading or death being dropped.

### **MAX MAYES**

Max Mayes, was born and raised in Florence, Rankin County, Mississippi where he attended McLaurin Attendance Center and Florence High School. After graduation he attended Jackson State University and Troy State University European Division majoring in Business Management ultimately receiving a degree from Jackson State.

From 1978-1982 he served with the United States Air Force as a Morse Systems Operator and Air Traffic Controller. In 1983 he joined the Jackson Police Department where he served in the patrol and Narcotics Division. In November, 1992 he began work at the Hinds County District Attorney's Office as its first African-American criminal investigator. In 2005 he retired from the district attorney's office. In February, 2006 he began Investigative Consulting, LLC. The primary work performed by Investigative Consulting, LLC is in areas of murder and capital murder assisting criminal defense attorneys in consultation and investigation.

He is married and the father of two, Tiffany and Brandon, and the grandfather of three granddaughters.

### **BEAU RUDDER**

Beau Rudder is the Director of Training at the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. From 2003 to 2012 he was an Assistant Public Defender in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where he represented indigent people charged with felonies ranging from non-violent drug offenses to capital murder. A native of Middletown, Ohio, Beau earned his BA from the University of Mississippi in 1999 and his JD from the University of Toledo School of Law in 2002. He is a member of the Mississippi State Bar and President of the Mississippi Public Defenders Association.

### **BENTLEY E. CONNER**

Graduate of University of Mississippi, Bachelor of Public Administration in 1974, Juris Doctor in 1977, Member of Mississippi Public Defender Association since 1989, Certified as DWI Specialist by MSCJ since 1991, Chief Public Defender for Madison County, Mississippi since 1985, formerly Municipal Judge in City of Canton and Town of Flora.

### **WILLIAM B. KIRKSEY**

William B. Kirksey attended Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, and holds a juris doctor degree from Jackson School of Law, and an honorary Masters of Laws degree from Mississippi College School of Law. He is admitted to the bar in the States of Mississippi and Georgia. He practices before all Courts in Mississippi and is admitted to United States District Courts in Mississippi, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

He has been an Associate Professor at Hinds Junior College, and an Adjunct Professor at Mississippi College School of Law teaching Criminal Trial Practice.

He is a life member of MAJ, has received the life time achievement award from MAJ, a member of the N.A.C.D.L., and has been Certified as a Criminal Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocates since 1985.

He is rated a.v. by Martin Dale Hubble, has been listed in Listed in Best Lawyers in America, 1994-2015, in the field of criminal law, Super Lawyers of the Midsouth, Best Lawyer in Mississippi -2013, and Best Law firms in America 2013-15 by Best Lawyers.

He has participated in 38 capital murder cases, and tried numerous criminal cases in Mississippi and other states throughout the United States.

He practices criminal law with the firm of Kirksey & Associates, P.A., in Jackson, Mississippi.

**WILLIAM R. MONTROSS, JR**

William R. Montross, Jr. joined the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR) in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2003. In his present capacity as a senior capital attorney, he represents individuals in Alabama and Georgia charged and/or convicted of capital offenses at trial, on direct appeal, and in the post-conviction process, consults with lawyers throughout the country on capital cases, and works with other organizations and individuals in efforts to end the use of the death penalty. Mr. Montross is also a faculty member at Gideon's Promise, teaching client-centered representation and mentoring young public defenders practicing in the Deep South. Prior to joining SCHR, he was a public defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the Bronx Defenders, and the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York City. Mr. Montross lectures and writes extensively on matters of criminal justice and capital punishment, including an essay, *Wrecking Life: When the State Seeks to Kill*, in the recent published *How Can You Represent Those People?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) (co-written with Meghan Shapiro), as well as "Virtue and Vice: Who Will Report on the Failings of the American Criminal Justice System?" published in the *Stanford Law Review*, "Go, Witness, and Speak," which appeared in the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, and "The Calling of Criminal Defense" (co-written with Abbe Smith), which appeared in the *Mercer Law Review*. Mr. Montross received his B.A. from Fordham University, J.D. from Harvard Law School, and L.L.M. from Georgetown, where he was a fellow in the E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program from 1995-97.

**CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM L. WALLER, JR.**

Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr., was born in Jackson, MS. He graduated from Murrah High School in 1970. He received a Bachelor's degree in Business from Mississippi State University and a Juris Doctor from Ole Miss Law School.

He was elected to the Supreme Court in 1996 and reelected in 2004 and 2012. He became Chief Justice in 2009.

A member of the retired reserve, Waller attained the rank of Brigadier General while serving as Commander, 66 Troop Command, Mississippi Army National Guard.

He and his wife, Charlotte, are members at First Baptist Church in Jackson. They have three children. Justice Waller and his sons are Eagle Scouts.

**GARY L. GRIFFIN**

Gary Lynn Griffin was born October 7, 1960, to Arthur and Nancy Lee Griffin, in Batesville, MS. Gary was the seventh child, born on the seventh day at 7:07am. He finished High school a year early (1977), went to Northwest Community College for a semester, he joined the army, he returned to Batesville in 1982 and started two businesses, he worked for the State as a forester, and he worked at a local radio station (WBLE) as a country and western DJ. Gary faced the fight of his life for his life, serving more than 23 years in MDOC. Gary was released in 2009 and is currently employed as a Para-legal/ Investigator.

## **LORI JAMES-TOWNES**

Lori James-Townes is the Director of Social Work, Leadership & Program Development for the Maryland Office of Public Defenders; where she supervises, oversees, and plans all of social work services. In addition, she supervises the social work and the intern programs throughout the state of Maryland and provides training to attorneys, social workers, and support staff. The social workers and interns provide litigation support and forensic services to every division throughout the agency. Mrs. James-Townes has developed a model-defense-based social work program that has become a national model for other public defender agencies.

Her accomplishments include, but are not limited to the creation of a certified Continuing Education Program, which provides training to social work staff and interns. She also designed an innovative intern orientation program. She supports the growth and development of attorneys and support staff through leadership development and internal consultation. Mrs. James-Townes has 20 years of leadership and management experience in the juvenile and criminal justice systems and 18 years of program consultation and training experience.

She is the current Chair of National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialist (NASAMS), Executive Committee. She is a past member of the NLADA's Board of Directors. As a private mitigation expert she provides forensic services, expert testimony, consultation, and clinical trainings. Her career in the criminal justice field has been extensive. She has worked as an expert on cases in both the state and federal courts.

In 2015, the Daily Record named her one of *Maryland's Top 100 Women* and she received the *Alumni on the Move Award* from the Morgan State school of Social Work. In 2012, she was honored by Morgan State University when she received *The Presidential Award* in recognition of her outstanding achievements and accomplishments. She has been honored by NLADA's leadership in naming her one of their National Gideon's Heroes and again with the Mitigation Life Time Achievement Award. In 2002, the Alumni Association of the University of MD School of Social Work named her Alumni of the Decade (90's).

Mrs. James-Townes received her Bachelors (Morgan State University) and Master's Degrees (University of Maryland) in clinical Social Work. She completed her full academic studies for her PhD in Public Health (Morgan State University). She is currently studying for her Doctor of Divinity at United Theological Seminary School. She resides in Maryland with her daughter Maya.